

**Rule 901 Requirement of authentication or identification**

- (a) General provision. The requirement of authentication or identification as a condition precedent to admissibility is satisfied by evidence sufficient to support a finding that the matter in question is what its proponent claims.
- (b) Illustrations. By way of illustration only, and not by way of limitation, the following are examples of authentication or identification conforming with the requirements of this rule:
  - (1) Testimony of witness with knowledge. Testimony that a matter is what it is claimed to be.
  - (2) Nonexpert testimony on handwriting. Nonexpert opinion as to the genuineness of handwriting, based upon familiarity not acquired for the purposes of litigation.
  - (3) Comparison by trier or expert witness. Comparison by the trier of fact or by expert witnesses with specimens which have been authenticated.
  - (4) Distinctive characteristics and the like. Appearance, contents, substance, internal patterns, or other distinctive characteristics, taken in conjunction with circumstances.
  - (5) Voice identification. Identification of a voice, whether heard firsthand or through mechanical or electronic transmission or recording, by opinion based upon hearing the voice at any time under circumstances connecting it with the alleged speaker.
  - (6) Telephone conversations. Telephone conversations, by evidence that a call was made to the number assigned at the time by the telephone company to a particular place or business if:
    - (A) In the case of a person, circumstances, including self-identification, show the person answering to be the one called; or
    - (B) In the case of a business, the call was made to a place of business and the conversation related to business reasonably transacted over the phone.
  - (7) Public records or reports. Evidence that a writing authorized by law to be recorded or filed and in fact recorded or filed in a public office, or a purported public record, report, statement, or data compilation, in any form, is from the public office where items of this nature are kept.
  - (8) Ancient documents or data compilation. Evidence that a document or data compilation, in any form:
    - (A) Is in such condition as to create no suspicion concerning its authenticity;
    - (B) Was in a place where it, if authentic, would likely be; and
    - (C) Has been in existence twenty (20) years or more at the time it is offered.
  - (9) Process or system. Evidence describing a process or system used to produce a result and showing that the process or system produces an accurate result.

- (10) Methods provided by statute or rule. Any method of authentication or identification provided by act of the General Assembly or by rule prescribed by the Supreme Court of Kentucky.

**Effective:** July 1, 1992

**History:** Enacted 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 88, sec. 62; renumbered (7/1/92) pursuant to 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 324, sec. 34.